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# EUGENE WEEKLY

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OCCUPY  
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# OUTDOORS

*The sun is out –  
get in the river  
on a raft or over it  
on a slackline!*

ADAM GROSOWSKY SLACKINES OVER  
THE ROW RIVER IN COTTAGE GROVE

*Photo by Todd Cooper*



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## Assistance League Thrift Shop

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# letters

## THANK YOU FROM THE LIBRARY

This letter is a giant thank you to all of the people who volunteered or shopped at the Friends of the Library Book Sale this last weekend. The lines were the longest we could remember both getting into the sale and waiting to pay, and yet I heard only patient sighing, happy chatting and lots of book talk.

The young man who accidentally spilled his coffee couldn't apologize enough and stayed to make sure it was cleaned up and all was well. No one bothered the young children intently reading their new discoveries under the "Please do not sit here and sort" sign because, after all, this is exactly what we hoped the sale would encourage. The hundreds of volunteers who helped handed in their orange aprons, put up their tired feet and said sign me up for next year.

Over 4,000 people came that first day. Except for a couple over-enthusiastic scanners (who were quickly disabused of their unacceptable behavior), everyone was civil, kind, and I hope pleased with what they found. In this mean-spirited and unnecessarily divided world, you were your best selves.

The Eugene Public Library thanks you for every penny spent. The Friends of the Library thanks you for being such a great crowd. The world thanks you for

being the thoughtful readers and thinkers that you are. See you next year.

*Linda Ague, president  
Friends of the Eugene Public Library*

## APPROPRIATE CAMPAIGN MESSAGES

This morning, I read two letters criticizing Tony Corcoran's letter in last week's *EW*, in which he criticized Doyle Canning. Canning is running in the upcoming primary to be the Democratic candidate to represent Oregon House District 8, which covers south and west Eugene down to Cottage Grove. I decided to read Corcoran's letter to see what he said.

Corcoran's letter was blunt. He said Canning had photographs in her TV campaign ads with local past and current Democratic office holders. He said, "She is clearly sending a campaign message to the observer that those in the picture support her candidacy. That's campaign fraud IMHO." In fact, each of those pictured Democrats is supporting Lisa Fragala.

Neither of the two letters criticizing Corcoran acknowledge his key point — Canning's ads were misrepresenting the support from the prominent politicians in the photographs.

After spending a bit of time looking at these issues, I think it's unfair to criti-

cize Corcoran's letter without acknowledging the core of his message. Rather than writing letters to the editors, the authors might talk to Canning about appropriate campaign messages.

*Tom Barkin  
Eugene*

*Editor's note: In the video on Doyle Canning's Instagram, that has since been taken down, Sen. Ron Wyden, who is not endorsing in the race, was also featured.*

## WE NEED FRAGALA

Lisa Fragala is the person we need to represent House District 8. I have known Fragala for over 20 years and witnessed her unwavering commitment to social justice, climate change, public education and women's reproductive rights. She brings a depth and breadth of experience as a 20-plus-year educator, as a Lane Community College board director and as a Eugene planning commissioner. These experiences position her well for a role in the Oregon Legislature. As importantly, Fragala is compassionate, understanding, curious and is driven to make our community a better place to live.

As the former executive director at Sponsors Inc., I have been grateful for Fragala's longtime support of people re-entering our community post-incarceration. She was a critical supporter of our

## SUDOKU

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6			9					1
8	1				9	3		
	5	8			1	7		
		4				8		
	9	1			3	6		
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1			3				7	
		5	8					

Place numbers 1-9 so that each row, column and 3x3 square has each number only once.

housing for women with children. She also understands the housing needs in our community and has been a staunch supporter of affordable, climate friendly housing. She is well prepared to find solutions to the current crisis that affects renters and would be home-owners.

Fragala is also an incredible advocate for racial justice. She lives and leads with her values. Fragala recognizes that we can't arrest our way out of the current drug crisis, and that the recent re-criminalization of drugs in Oregon will disproportionately impact Black and Brown communities. Understanding this, Fragala will advocate for criminal justice reform and needed behavioral health and substance use treatment.

I trust Fragala. We need her voice in Salem. Please join me in voting for Fra-



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gala for state representative in HD 8.

Paul Solomon  
Eugene

## BIKE PATH ENDORSEMENTS

As the running of the Eugene Marathon approaches, I would like to appeal to the community in support of building a bike path along the south side of the Willamette River between the Frohn-mayer and Knickerbocker foot bridges. This is the final segment necessary to complete a 12-mile riverside loop. An athlete in training might begin a run in Alton Baker Park and never leave the riverside to nearly complete a half marathon.

If we build this segment of path and complete the loop, a thousand years from now runners and bikers, lovers and dreamers will still be roaming the river-front. If we don't complete the loop now it might never happen.

Michael Ryan  
Eugene

## LEECH AND KASHINSKY

I'm supporting Lyndsie Leech, ward 7, and Eliza Kashinsky, ward 1, for the Eugene City Council in May. Please vote no on the baseball stadium bond issue.

Politics is a clash between the self-interests of large groups of people. In Eugene, where the main issue is housing, it's the YIMBYs vs. the NIMBYs. Once you get that you understand Eugene politics. It's a contest between NIMBYs who want to keep apartment buildings out of "their" neighborhoods, and YIMBYs like me who believe we need all the housing we can get.

Leech and Kashinsky are YIMBYs. Their opponents are NIMBYs. If you're a renter, vote accordingly.

At a time when we desperately need a lot more homeless shelter and affordable housing, the City Council was completely irresponsible in putting the baseball stadium bond issue on the May ballot. Any bond issue should have been for shelter and housing.

The council has had the wrong funding priorities for years. As Kashinsky told the City Club, we need to make hard choices between what is essential and what would be "nice" to have. We need to send a message to the council: shelter and housing are essential, baseball is not.

Lynn Porter  
Homeless Action  
Eugene

## MAYOR'S RACE

As we face an uphill battle against homelessness, mayoral candidate Kaarin Knudson's expertise in urban planning and working on innovative initiatives to shelter the unhoused will serve our community well. Seven years ago, Knudson, a licensed architect, founded Better Housing Together, a not-for-profit organization that advocates for more housing options for Lane County residents.

Eugene has been fortunate the last 20 years to have two extraordinary mayors. One, Kitty Piercy, put sustainability on center stage and the other, Lucy

Vinis, steered us through a devastating pandemic. Now with Knudson, we have the opportunity to be led by another accomplished woman. Knudson came to Eugene as a middle-distance runner, where she excelled, becoming an All-American athlete. She's a true collaborator, with an incredible work ethic, able to talk comfortably with developers and environmentalists, as well as conservatives and progressives. As a wife, a mother with two children attending Eugene schools, and a University of Oregon faculty member, Knudson is deeply invested in Eugene. She'll make an excellent mayor and I am proud to support her.

David Funk  
Eugene

## A VOTE FOR KEATING

What can we expect from a member of the Eugene City Council? Certainly action, commitment and an interest in meeting the members of the community.

Matt Keating — the Ward 2 incumbent — has met these expectations for myself and my neighbors.

Our neighborhood suffered from a house filled with squatters. The California-based landlord was, by definition, absent. The squatters caused issues for the local grocery store, followed my neighbor's young daughter at night and openly used drugs in the daylight on a street that children use to walk to school.

The day we contacted Keating, he returned our call, talked to us, listened to our story and then took action. He called the EPD's chief as well as Eugene code enforcement. Over the course of a few days, he remained committed to finding a solution, continuing his contacts with EPD and code. He even came out to meet the neighbors on the street, offer updates, share information and listen to our concerns. About a week after contact, the problem was solved.

Keating has my vote for Ward 2 council member in the upcoming election.

Joey Bruckner  
Eugene

## A VOTE FOR WARNES

Lisa Warnes is a longtime local resident and contractor in Ward 2 with a clear insight into matters of housing and zoning that affect us all (e.g., guidelines for building new homes, density, parking allowances, etc.)

Her passion and determination for doing the right thing are evidenced by serving as a board member of the South Eugene Neighbors Association and as a member of Eugene Planning and Development Department. She successfully spearheaded the effort to reverse the planned building of 110 houses on 40 acres of dangerously sloping pristine forest land, land that is now a valuable addition to the Eugene Parks System.

Please join me in voting for Warnes, who is uniquely qualified to represent us in Ward 2.

Carol Pearce  
Eugene

## CAN WE HAVE BETTER SIDEWALKS?

Have you ever taken a tumble after tripping over an unexpected raised lip in the sidewalk? Do you ever find yourself walking in the street because it seems safer than walking on the sidewalk?

All of us use the sidewalks at one time or another — and the most vulnerable among us depend on them more than most. Eugene's sidewalks are in terrible condition, yet the city's only plan for fixing them is to hope that individual property owners will offer to pay over \$1,000 per panel to repair the sidewalk.

Sidewalks are public infrastructure, just like streets and bike paths. Citizens United to Repair Broken Sidewalks (CURBS), an informal grassroots group of people who are tired of falling, has provided the city with a dozen examples of how other communities have addressed the problem of bad sidewalks. If they've figured out how to do it, Eugene can, too!

Tell city leaders it's time to make our sidewalks walkable! Just Google "Make Eugene's Sidewalks Safe" and sign our Change.org petition.

Sue Wolling  
Eugene

## AN INDEPENDENT, FOR NOW

This is an important civics lesson:

Since 2004 Paul Holvey has been the state representative of District 8, which

includes much of Eugene, and a lot of ground heading south. He is not running for re-election. There are two Democrats running for his seat. There is a clear difference between the two. There are approximately 60,000 people in District 8. In a real democracy there would be a big voter turnout for this particular election.

But the way it works in Oregon, because there are only Democrats running, you can only vote in this election if you are a Democrat. You cannot vote if you identify with any other party, including Republican or Independent.

I have been an Independent all my life. The first member of our family in America fought in the Civil War as a one-armed colonel on the winning side. I am very upset that I am not allowed to vote. What country am I living in?

In fact, I am so upset that I just lied to the state of Oregon, and changed my registration to Democrat, which I am not, so that I can vote. When the primary is over, I will re-register as an Independent.

Turns out it's easy to change one's registration. You have until May 20 to change. Even a simpleton like myself can do it. Here's the link: [Sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/updatevoterregistration.aspx](http://Sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/updatevoterregistration.aspx).

I know who I want as state rep. That's why I changed parties.

Scott Landfield  
Eugene

## Jonesin' Crossword

©2023 JONESIN' CROSSWORDS (EDITOR@JONESINCROSSWORDS.COM)

### "Four Cheers"

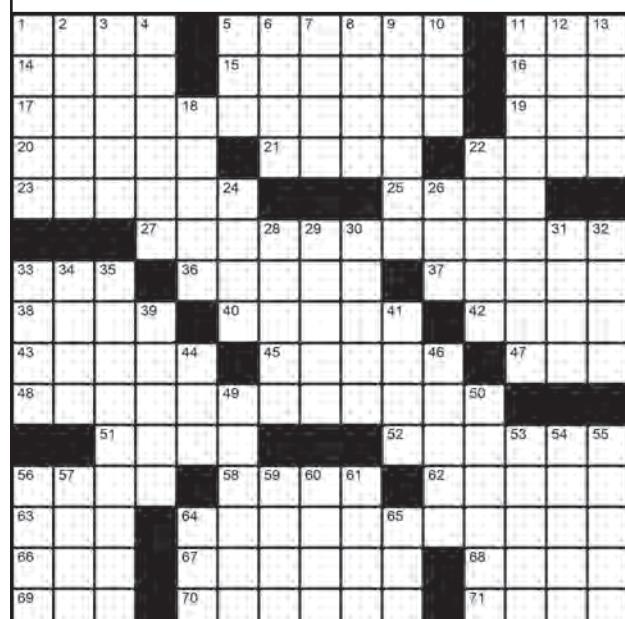
—the long answers point to a common goal.

#### Across

- 1. President and Supreme Court justice
- 5. Hockey players, slangily
- 11. Kangaroo move
- 14. Spaghetti \_\_\_ carbonara
- 15. Pavlovian response
- 16. Reddit Q&A session, briefly
- 17. Instruction at a bench
- 19. Powerful connections
- 20. Amino and folic
- 21. Salt, in chem class
- 22. Kardashian matriarch
- 23. Choose from a menu
- 25. Opinion
- 27. NHL #1 draft pick of 1984 and Pittsburgh Penguins superstar
- 33. Music stack
- 36. Lisa of "Melrose Place"
- 37. Talk nonsense
- 38. Pepper's intensity
- 40. Activity units that may be counted
- 42. Affirm decidedly
- 43. Roast host
- 45. Jamaican sectarian
- 47. Snaky-shaped letter
- 48. Partier who bails early, maybe
- 51. Allergy symptom
- 52. Maker of Wayfarer sunglasses
- 56. Uncertain
- 58. Longtime Israeli diplomat Abba
- 62. Prefix with surgeon
- 63. Luau offering
- 64. Bad dancer's excuse
- 66. Hammer throw trajectory
- 67. Sandwich on a press
- 68. Pound, foot, or foot-
- 69. Meet with
- 70. Sentence structure
- 71. Solitary

#### Down

- 1. Cantina hors d'oeuvres
- 2. Pulitzer-winning novelist Walker
- 3. Swing out of control
- 4. Like some long bicycles
- 5. Map abbr.
- 6. French city near Omaha Beach
- 7. "Frozen II" queen
- 8. 1099-\_\_\_ (IRS form)
- 9. Develop gradually
- 10. Grandma, in Grantham
- 11. It's not an extension
- 12. "Present" and "potent" leader
- 13. "Do not \_\_\_ Go"
- 18. Only "Sesame Street" Muppet whose name is in the NATO phonetic alphabet (until Tango showed up)
- 22. Actress Knightley
- 24. Speaker of baseball's Hall of Fame
- 26. Devilish sort
- 28. Opening bit
- 29. "Big Chicken Shaq" figure
- 30. Temporary loss of judgment
- 31. Four Corners tribe
- 32. Gen-\_\_\_ (post-boom babies)
- 33. Job title that gets a "yes"?
- 34. Singer Lovato
- 35. Give up
- 39. Cranky
- 41. Myanmar flag feature
- 44. "And so forth"
- 46. \_\_\_-garde
- 49. What "Tao" means
- 50. Quite a sight
- 53. Good, to Guillermo
- 54. "The results \_\_\_!"
- 55. Night in Naples
- 56. Bitter bar orders
- 57. Links warning
- 59. West Germany's capital
- 60. Came down to the ground
- 61. "99 Luftballons" German singer
- 64. Rolls over a house?
- 65. Mend



ANSWERS TO LAST PUZZLE

THETA	TOMB	FUGU
VIRAL	AVIA	ATON
SCARF	KING	BOOTS
TAPE	EPAP	PIE
INK	LOTS	INCITE
FAN	OF	THE OPERA
ALEXA	QUESTO	
TAXI	POUTS	PISA
DHABIL	NUMAN	
BEAR	IN THE PARK	
ARTISTA	SHOW	CIA
CELL	EBB	EGG
HELLDOLLY	AVOID	
ODIE	LAIR	MECCA
ODSES	ABIE	ENTER

# Sash, Crown and Cuffs

**TAISYN CRUTCHFIELD IS THE CURRENT MISS EUGENE USA AND ASPIRING PAGEANT WINNER. SHE'S ALSO A CALIFORNIA POLICE OFFICER WHO'S PAID FOR HER PRINCIPLED STANDS.**

By Bentley Freeman

Taisyn Crutchfield says she wanted to be a police officer from the time she was 10. Feeling a need to protect her community after the kidnapping and murder of a 17-year old girl in 2010, she says, "I want to be an officer because I want to be able to bring this family justice."

Her mom saw another opportunity for her when she was 10: To help her daughter develop her interviewing and public speaking skills, she entered Crutchfield in the National American Miss contest.

Today, Crutchfield, a 28-year-old Black woman, has brought those pursuits together as a California police officer who's vying for the Miss Oregon USA title on May 4. A one-time star sprinter, Crutchfield says she believes that she can inspire girls and young women everywhere.

"I can put on a badge and I can be a superhero out there," Crutchfield says. "Or I can put on a crown and reach out to those little girls who think they can't and think they're not enough."

Crutchfield also keeps an apartment in Eugene, where she works as a private trainer and coach. Thanks to the quirks of pageant rules, that makes her eligible for the Miss Oregon USA pageant. In 2023, she filed an online application and pageant officials bestowed her with the Miss Eugene USA title. The winner of the state competition goes on to compete for the Miss USA title.

Crutchfield earned bachelor of science and master's degrees in criminology at the University of California, Irvine, where she shared an NCAA 4x100m relay dash title in 2016 and was named to the Big West All American Team in 2020. In 2021, she earned her master's in criminology from UCI and reached her dream, becoming a sworn officer in the Pasadena Police Department.

She says that the death of George Floyd, who was murdered when a Minneapolis police officer kneeled on his neck in 2020, intensified her sense of mission. "When George Floyd happened, it kind of took a massive turn in the relationship in the bond with the community," she says. "With joining law enforcement, I knew that it's time to bridge the gap."

As a rookie cop, Crutchfield says, she saw her role as helping the marginalized and forgotten members of the community. "I treat a homeless person like I treat the chief of police," Crutchfield says.

She says her idealism led her to break the code of silence maintained by police officers.

In January 2023, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies in Altadena, a neighboring community to Pasadena, shot and killed Charles Towns, who had stabbed several people with a pair of scissors during a mental health



Photo by Todd Cooper

***'I can put on a badge and I can be a superhero out there. Or I can put on a crown and reach out to those little girls who think they can't and think they're not enough.'* — TAISYN CRUTCHFIELD**

crisis. A month later, two of Towns' sons, angry about their father's death, confronted Pasadena police officers.

During the confrontation, Crutchfield attempted to intervene and calm a fellow officer, who in turn pushed her away, according to claims filed by Crutchfield's attorney, Bradley Gage, and reported on by KCAL CBS news. The Pasadena police put Crutchfield on six months' administrative leave. The claim filed against the Pasadena Police Department alleges racial discrimination, harassment and retaliation for her actions.

During the paid leave, Crutchfield says, "I was suffering in silence." Feeling lost but not defeated, Crutchfield — who had already moved to Eugene that January — focused on her coaching career, specializing with Olympic hopeful sprinters and other athletes. Oregon Ducks wide receiver Gary Bryant Jr. is a client.

Crutchfield said Eugene is a place for her to catch her breath and get away from Los Angeles' "go go go" attitude. She declined to comment further on the status of her lawsuit against the city.

Hertime away from the police force also helped her refocus her commitment to law enforcement. "It woke me up to, like girl, do you know what type of officer you are like?" Crutchfield says. "These people need you, These kids need you out here."

Crutchfield is pursuing her third pageant title as an adult. She sought the Miss California USA crown in 2016 representing her hometown as Miss Pasadena, while still attending UCI. She also vied for the title of Miss California Volunteer as Miss Riverside Volunteer in 2023.

"Growing up, I didn't see pageants as just about beauty; I saw them as an opportunity to build confidence and learn important life skills," Crutchfield says. "Now as a woman advocating for other women, I know the platform I'm given can help share important messages."

"Too often, minorities don't see themselves represented in leadership," Crutchfield says. "I want to show young girls they can achieve anything, even in spaces not designed for them."

*Taisyn Crutchfield will compete as Miss Eugene in the annual Miss Oregon 2024 pageant on May 4, at the Elsinore Theatre in Salem.*

# Occupying Health Care for All

WITH A COMMITMENT TO LISTEN TO EVERY PATIENT AND PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY MEDICAL CARE AT NO COST, OCCUPY MEDICAL IS BACK, OFFERING EUGENE FREE MEDICAL POP-UP CLINICS EVERY WEEKEND.

By Faheem Khan

Occupying Medical first began operating in 2011, when a loosely knit group of enthusiastic medical professionals and volunteers ran a weekly clinic under a first aid tent as an outgrowth of the Occupy movement. As the team grew, and Occupying Medical expanded, the group refitted a former blood mobile bus into an iconic on-the-wheels mobile clinic that was used until 2017.

Today, just over 12 years since the beginning, the nonprofit is still in town, serving Eugene as a model for universal health care. For the last six months, the Occupying team has offered free weekly clinics under tents every Saturday, alternating their locations between the St. Vincent De Paul Service Center and Washington Jefferson Park.

The Occupy Wall Street movement, which Occupying Medical grew from, was a protest against inequality in America, a country where the richest 1 percent dominates the economy, Occupiers said. The demonstrations ignited nationwide action to reshape the narrative around economic justice. In Eugene, Occupiers camped in Washington Jefferson Park and called attention to the plight of the unhoused.

Dr. William Foster is the medical director of Occupying Medical. He says holding bi-weekly pop-up clinics at locations like St. Vincent De Paul, where lots of people gather to access resources like free meals and showers, is crucial for medical outreach.

He says, "Having worked with the unhoused populations for close to 15 years now, I realize you have to go where they are. Asking to come to a clinic presents lots of barriers like transportation and bad weather. It has been important to find places we can be, where there are a lot of unhoused people congregating. Knowing that we will be here every other Saturday and trying to get that word out is key."

Foster adds, "This population needs help in so many areas, aside from just being unhoused. A lot of them have not had great experiences with doctor's offices and emergency rooms. They require ongoing care, not just acute care."

Daniel Meyers is a regular patient at Occupying Medi-



DR. WILLY FOSTER CLEANING A PATIENT'S WOUND AND APPLYING GAUZE

*Photo courtesy instagram.com/occupymedical\_nonprofit*

cal's bi-weekly St. Vincent De Paul clinic off Highway 99.

He says that a lack of trust in hospitals within the houseless community stems from unfair profiling. Meyers recalls his own experience. "I got taken into the hospital once, I couldn't even walk on my feet and they discharged me, giving me a used pair of boots that somebody had clearly just left there. I got escorted out by security and couldn't even use a phone to call someone for a ride. When a hospital kicks you out and refuses to treat you — that's a problem."

What started as a handful of medically trained volunteers willing to serve the community has evolved into Occupying Medical's cohesive team of primary care practitioners who offer a wide variety of high-quality health care services.

The nonprofit maintains its slogan, "Health care is a human right," assuring their patients of two things — no costs and no judgments.

After being unhoused for more than six years, and a recent stint in jail, Meyers is staying at the Dusk to Dawn emergency shelter managed by St. Vincent De Paul. Now

39, Meyers plans to turn things around and says resources like Occupying Medical are beneficial. "It's helpful because they are able to come here, right where all the people can get the certain kinds of treatment that they need."

Foster has been practicing medicine for the last 30 years. The doctor runs the show here in Eugene for Occupying Medical every Saturday while also maintaining a full-time post at the PeaceHealth emergency room in Florence.

Foster is joined at the weekly clinics by two to three other physicians and one or two nurses. The rest are all willing and often eager pre-med students.

Kody Oyama, Alexa Brennan and Hannah Medved are all pre-med seniors at the University of Oregon. They have all volunteered with Occupying Medical since last year. "All three of us started volunteering every Saturday and ended up joining the board," Oyama says.

Medved says that this was the perfect opportunity for her and her peers to get involved with the community to give back. "We're able to get really good hands-on experience because we can also see and learn from patient-physician interactions."

Foster hopes to motivate pre-med students to continue to do this type of medical outreach in their careers. "Certainly this is an exposure to medicine that is not like your typical emergency room or doctor's office," he says. "This is a very different view of medicine, and it's been great to have willing pre-med students come and work."

Brennan says, "It's a really unique experience. To be so involved with this vulnerable population is not something you normally get to see in the medical field. If you want to be a physician it's important that you see all kinds of patients, not just people in the ER with a broken arm. That's not real life. Wanting to get involved in the community is the foundation of being a good physician."

Foster says the students are quick learners, and he hopes the clinic shows them an aspect of medicine that, when they are doctors and nurses in eight to 10 years from now, can have an impact on them. He says that when Occupying Medical first started, one of the mottos they had was "Two hours a month ain't bad."

*You can find Occupying Medical clinics from 9 to 11 am on the first and third Saturdays of the month at the St. Vincent de Paul Service Center on Hwy 99 and on the second and fourth Saturdays at Washington Jefferson Park near the Whiteaker.*

## slant

• **This community lost two remarkable women in April**, Nancie Fadeley and Ruth Duemler. The daughter of a minister, Fadeley served in the Oregon Legislature, fighting for environmental protections. She also worked in the University of Oregon administration. Duemler, sometimes nicknamed "Street Heat," knew how to rally folks to good causes — phoning, letter writing, door knocking, all the efforts that move democracy. Both will be missed.

• **Sophomore women from near and far are tearing into the University of Oregon distance running record book.** Silan Ayyildiz is from Turkey and ran last year for the University of South Caro-

lina. Maddy Elmore is from South Eugene High School and has been a Duck for years. Elmore set a new record of 15:15.79 in the 5,000 this spring and Ayyildiz is close behind. Ayyildiz is the second fastest Duck indoor miler of all time, and holds Turkey's national record. Klaudia Kazimierska comes from Poland and is one of the top five Ducks ever at 1,500 meters. We look forward to watching these teammates win more races and set more records!

• The **46th annual Take Back the Night Rally, March and Speak-Out Against Sexual and Domestic Violence** starts at 6 pm April 25 at the University of Oregon. The rally begins at the EMU Amphitheater, followed by a 2.5-mile march through campus and Eugene and ending at the EMU Diamond Lake Room for the student-led speak-out. The UO Women's Center sponsors the event, and it notes that it will address the duality of survivors holding their own

path to healing — through joy and rightful rage — as they reclaim their power. Also, the event looks to center marginalized communities too often left out of the discussion about domestic and sexual violence.

### • Kudos to those recognized April 20 at the 2024 Springfield Arts & Culture Awards Celebration!

They included a Dan Egan Scholarship for Josie Buffalino; Antonio Huerta and Jessica Zapata for Cultural Connection; Esteban Comacho Steffensen for Public Art and Dottie Chase of the Emerald Empire Art Association for Lifetime Achievement.

• Heads up! **Your ballot for the May Primary election goes out the first week of May** — find My Vote on the Oregon Secretary of State website and verify you are registered to vote and then stay tuned for *Eugene Weekly's* endorsements in our next issue!



## HAPPENING PEOPLE

By Paul Neevel

### Jim Evangelista and Catherine Pickup (REVISITED)

**DECEMBER 2015:** In the 1980s, University of Florida student Jim Evangelista and his roommates had a sign that read, "Welcome to Reality Kitchen." Later, when he started painting murals, Evangelista adopted the name for his Gainesville storefront studio, and Reality Kitchen became a 24/7 coffee house and community center. He got married, had a son, Diego, and, in 1992, took a cross-country trip in a converted school bus. "We wound up in Eugene on the last day of the Country Fair," he says. "We knew we had to live here." Though his marriage ended, Evangelista got mural commissions and went back to school for a BFA in visual design, then a master's in special ed. He worked for the Lane Education Service District in Cottage Grove, then came to Eugene to work with students aged 19 to 21 in a Transition Program classroom. "That's where I met Catherine," he says. Catherine Pickup studied special ed in Vancouver, B.C., before moving to Eugene. She and Evangelista left the Transition Program in 2010 to launch Reality Kitchen, a nonprofit bakery and café that provides an integrated workplace setting for young adults with disabilities. "We offer competitive wage employment," he says, "with people of all abilities working side-by-side." Located at 645 River Road, Reality Kitchen supplies bread and pastries to local restaurants.

**2024 UPDATE:** In March of 2020, COVID restrictions forced Reality Kitchen to temporarily close its café and bakery. "It gave us an opportunity to focus on our employment path program," Evangelista explains. Before the pandemic, participants received training only while on the job. Now they get six full weeks of training, alternating days in a classroom with days on the job. They learn about food safety, barista and food prep skills, interpersonal communication, customer service and cash handling. "We partnered with Lane and Douglas counties and wrote grants to fund this pilot program," he continues, "and we've developed our front patio area to provide outdoor seating." Future plans include expansion into adjacent rental space for an additional classroom plus a neighborhood general store that will feature local food, beverages, and household products. Now that COVID has eased, Reality Kitchen is once again supporting 15 staff workers and is open to the public two days a week, Thursday and Friday, from 10 am to 6 pm. Learn more at [RealityKitchen.org](http://RealityKitchen.org).

Know a Happening Person? Email [Editor@EugeneWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@EugeneWeekly.com) or call 541-484-0519.

# Family Event

Lane Community College  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
Saturday, May 4th 10am to 2pm  
Lane Community College  
Main Campus



the YMCA

## HEALTHY KIDS DAY®

April 27 | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Free!  
Eugene Family YMCA—600 E. 24th Ave.

- Food carts
- Local organizations
- Games & bounce houses
- Fun family activities & music

[lanecc.edu/openhouse](http://lanecc.edu/openhouse)

Todd Cranmer  
Broker



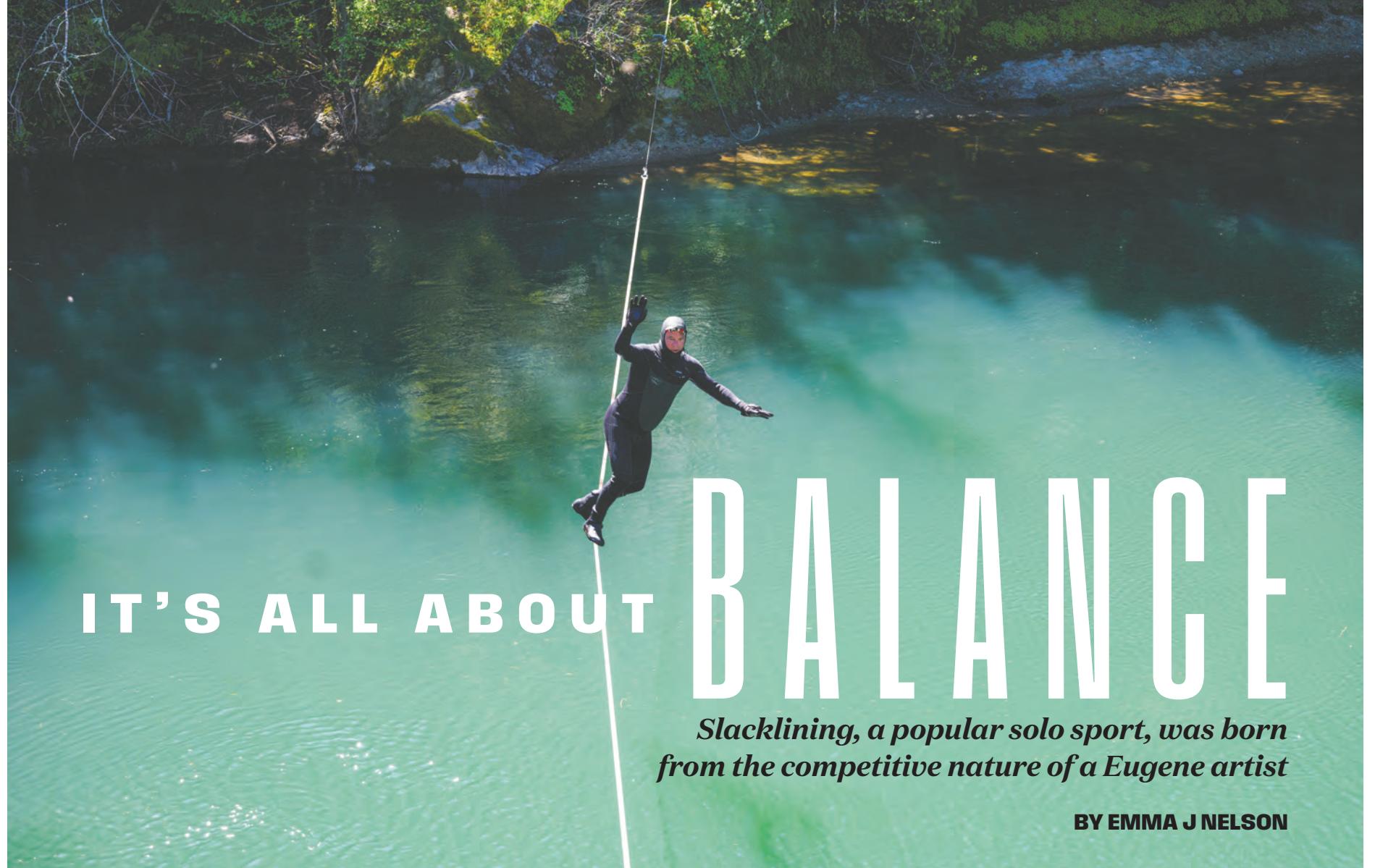
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IT'S ALL ABOUT

# BALANCE

*Slacklining, a popular solo sport, was born from the competitive nature of a Eugene artist*

BY EMMA J NELSON

Photo by Todd Cooper

**A**dam Grosowsky surfs back and forth just feet above the rushing water of the Row River. At 65 years old, he's just as agile on the 110-foot slackline as he was when he first created the popular solo sport in his 20s.

Grosowsky grew up climbing the sandstone cliffs of Carbondale, Illinois. Right before he left for Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, Grosowsky says he free-soloed the then-hardest climb in Carbondale. The route had a climbing grade of 5.12, or “advanced,” which Grosowsky says “right now is nothing, but back in the day was this amazing, unattainable thing that nobody had done.”

Grosowsky and his friends were incredibly confident in their climbing prowess, he says, so they hitchhiked to Yosemite National Park during their first Thanksgiving break from college to “show the world how it’s done.”

“We just got our asses fucking fully kicked,” Grosowsky says. “I mean, smoked.”

Defeated and cold in the snow, Grosowsky went looking for a ride back to Evergreen when he came across Camp 4, a campground that’s well-regarded as a resting place for avid rock climbers.

“I saw this movement, this incredibly calm movement through the trees,” Grosowsky says. “And I was like, ‘The fuck is that?’”

“That” was Ron Kauk, a longtime resident of Camp 4 and Yosemite-climbing legend, walking the dangling length of a slack-chain, a length of metal chain hung loosely between two points. Grosowsky says he’d heard of tight rope walking before, but he’d not seen someone walk a slack surface before.

Grosowsky was determined to recreate Kauk’s impressive acts of balance, he says, so he purchased a quarter-inch diameter rope from a hardware store and hung it up between two trees on his college campus. The first time he stepped on the rope, Grosowsky says, he “ate total shit.”

“I had the pattern of the concrete ridges in my face. It’s just like, fuck, that really hurt,” Grosowsky says. “And the next day, I was like, ‘Why don’t we use climbing webbing?’”

Unlike the cylindrical rope that rolls under the pres-

sure of feet, climbing webbing provides a flat and flexible surface that’s ideal to balance on.

“The webbing has this amazing tensile quality to it instead of just being a dead, static thing,” Grosowsky says. “It flexes like a rubber band.”

Following their switch from rope to webbing, Grosowsky and his close friend Jeff Ellington were credited by *The New York Times* with the invention of the now widespread solo sport.

Grosowsky went on to earn two master’s degrees — one in arts and one in the fine arts of printmaking — from the University of Iowa, and when he graduated with his second in 1986, he picked up and drove to Eugene — the

“mecca of the rock climbing scene,” he says — with \$400 in his pocket. That was around the same time that Smith Rock in Deschutes County took off as the hot new spot for climbing.

The first time he visited Smith Rock, Grosowsky says, he had an epiphany at Monkey Face.

“That’s the place to put a wire,” Grosowsky says. “If there’s a place anywhere in the world that is a perfect, naturally set up place to put a wire up.”

Although it was a tight wire, a length of wire rather than the climbing webbing of a slackline, that Grosowsky attached to the 350-foot spire, the principles of balance and focus remained. Grosowsky crossed the wire a few times on belay — a rope attaching him to the wire — before walking it once without. A photographer saw him free walking the line and snapped a picture that was later used in a U.S. Bank ad about having “the guts.”

Since then, Grosowsky has continuously added to his skillset: Handstands, juggling, surfing and knife throwing have all joined his slackline repertoire. Most of his current tricks are done over water, Grosowsky says, because while “water can be very, very unforgiving, it’s better than falling on the ground.”

The beauty of slacklining as a hobby, though, is that it doesn’t have to be an extreme sport. Instead, it can be a meditative session in the park.

“It’s incredibly good for my psyche,” Grosowsky says. “It’s just so calming and centering.”

It’s no surprise then that slacklining’s popularity expanded out of the climbing sphere and into the average Joe’s peaceful afternoon. Just be careful of “the falling down thing,” Grosowsky says, and take it one step at a time.

“I can’t even drive around town; you go anywhere and there’s some kid on a slack wire,” Grosowsky says. “It’s very gratifying that a bunch of knuckleheads are having a blast.”

*Karin Clarke Gallery often features Adam Grosowsky’s paintings, with his next exhibition at the gallery planned for Dec. 4, 2024, to Jan. 18, 2025. Karin Clarke Gallery, located at 760 Willamette Street is open from noon to 5:30 pm, Wednesday to Friday, and 10 am to 4 pm Saturdays.*



ADAM GROSOWSKY SLACKLINING OVER THE ROW RIVER IN COTTAGE GROVE Photo by Todd Cooper

# HOW TO BE A CHILL-ASS JIT FLOATING THE WILLAMETTE RIVER

***Looking to cool off? Eugene Weekly breaks down how to float the river in a safe, fun and legal way this spring.***

BY BENTLEY FREEMAN

**A**s a senior at the University of Oregon, spring only truly begins for me when I have my first float along the Willamette River. Nothing quite beats the combination of a lackadaisical float on the river while blasting the finest of '70s soft rock.

But for the newbie, how does one float the river? And how do you do it safely? *Eugene Weekly* and the Oregon State Marine Board are here with answers.

The best float I can recommend to a first-time floater is to put in at the boat ramp under the Springfield Main Street Bridge, near Island Park, and to get out on the boat ramp by the Ruth Bascom Bike Path — next to Day Island Road — near Alton Baker Park and Autzen Stadium.

Of course getting home is as important as getting there, so take two cars to the end of the float, leave one behind and load everyone up in the second to be transported to the start.

Friends are good and all, but you'll need a few supplies to float the river and to float it safely. Here's what yours truly brings along on every river outing: a tube of melanoma-denying SPF 50 sunscreen (applied before getting in), pairs of UV-rated sunglasses, a Fox 40 whistle in my board shorts pocket, a wide brim straw hat to prevent rednecks, a single Bluetooth speaker playing Steely Dan's "Can't Buy a Thrill," a pair of water shoes, a waterproof cigarette case, bottles of cold water and, last but not least, another bottle of not water.

For innertubers, lifejackets are required only if the single-person innertube is tied to another, or if that innertube has multiple air chambers. The Oregon State Marine Board highly recommends bringing a lifejacket plus a whistle for every floater, just in case your inner tube implodes halfway down your float. You'll want that whistle, trust me.

This happened to a buddy of mine after we failed to inflate his inner tube fully. Being dumb college students we paid it no mind until halfway down the river when he began to capsize and fall behind. Due to his weight pushing out all the air from his improperly sealed tube, inflating it was a nonstarter.

After sinking fully just before some rapids, we bade farewell to the SS *Edmund Fratzgerald* before wading our way through shallower water to shore (bringing our deflated tubes and deflated spirits with us). We ended up walking the mile and a half to join up with the rest of our river crew.

"All rivers are inherently dangerous," says Oregon State Marine Board public information officer Ashley Massey. Having a flotation device for each person is paramount to staying safe and having fun while doing so, especially because of how fickle single-person inner tubes can be.

Lane County Search and Rescue already fished out the year's first water rescue at Lookout Point Lake on April 19. According to LCSO Sgt. Tim Wallace, the victim, who fell out of a kayak, could have been in more danger had they not brought along a life jacket.

While Massey says she doesn't want to act like Big



Illustration by  
Chelsea Lovejoy

Brother, she wants all potential floaters to be safe on the water. "You want your wits about you on the water," she says. "We strongly advocate leaving the alcohol on the shore."

While I will not advocate one way or another for drinking on the water, the Marine Board and I are in agreement that you should probably drink plenty of water on your stroll down the liquid-laid road.

Floating the river is all fun and games until you miss your exit from the river by two miles. This is why having a well thought-out put-in and pull-out plan is important for knowing what's next. Be sure that everyone knows

where to get into the water, and, more important, where to get out.

In short, before you may or may not have a couple sobering sips of your beverage, be sure to: Be aware of your surroundings. Stay close with your group. Practice floating on your back unassisted with your feet pointed downstream. Coordinate rides to and from the float. Have fun.

*Anyone who needs a lifejacket can pick one up at any local life jacket loaner station for free at Clearwater Park Boat Ramp, Dexter State Park, Lowell State Park and Fall Creek Recreation Area, among others. Find location by going to Oregon.gov/osmb and clicking "life jackets." Be sure to pay it forward and return them for future floaters!*



ZOE BAILEY, ONE OF BUFORD PARK'S HABITAT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INTERNS FOR THE SPRING OF 2023, IN A RESTORATIVE WILDCRAFTING WORKSHOP

# what's. happening

The combination of land conservation and herbalism comes alive with **Restorative Wildcrafting** April 27 at Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah's Native Plant Nursery. Eugene's only herbalist apothecary, Rooted Remedies Apothecary, teamed up with Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah for a second year to run this program. It's "based on health and wellness and bringing a community together to connect over herbal medicine," says Kassaundra Lynn, local herbalist and owner of Rooted Remedies Apothecary. Lynn works with Jared Tarr, volunteer coordinator with Buford Park, collaborating on the Invasive Species Utilization Project through the workshops. They tackle different species every month from April to October. This month, participants will harvest lemon balm and shining geranium to create plant medicines. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, spend your Saturday harvesting invasive wild plants to support the native landscape's long-lasting health. You'll get to learn about invasive and native species, experience wild harvesting of different herbs and make herbal extracts with the plants that you harvested. Gear up for the mud, dirt and Eugene's natural elements as it could rain or shine. "It's a way to reconnect with nature and the environment," Lynn says.

Restorative Wildcrafting is 1 pm to 4 pm April 27 at Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah's Native Plant Nursery, 34639 Frank Parrish Road. Tickets are \$65 for one month or \$385 for the whole season at [RootedRemedies.co](http://RootedRemedies.co). — Brianna Murschel

Photo by Jared Tarr

## THURSDAY

### APRIL 25

#### COMEDY

Wild Ones: Comedy Open Mic, 8pm, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. FREE.

#### CIVICS

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee, 12:15pm, Sloat Rm., Atrium Bldg., 99 W. 10th Ave.

Whilamut Citizen Planning Committee, 5:30pm, Willamalane Adult Activity Ctr., Parkview Rm., 215 W. C St., Spfd.

LCOG Board of Directors Meeting, 6-8pm, Ln. Council of Governments, Park Place Bldg., Buford Rm., 859 Willamette St., Ste. 500.

#### FILM

*The Room* — Q&A w/ Greg Sestero, 8:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$20.

#### GATHERINGS

Flourish Networking Eugene, 1:30pm, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. \$30 per month.

Psychedelic Recovery & Wellness Group, 5:30pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. Don.

Take Back The Night, 6pm, UO Erb Memorial Union, 1395 University St. FREE.

#### KIDS/FAMILY

Preschool Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Kids: Ancient Egypt, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

#### LECTURES/CLASSES

Race, Rights & Rifles: The Origins of the NRA & Contemporary Gun Culture, 12:15-1:45pm, 110 Knight

Law Ctr., 1515 Agate St. FREE.

April Write Club: Historical Fiction — The Guests w/ Flora Winters, 6-8pm, Wordcrafters, 438 Charneton St., Ste. 102. \$69.

#### MUSIC

Jazz Lab, 6pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 6pm today & Thu. May 2, Jimmy Mac's Overtime Bar & Grill, 770 S. Bertelsen Rd. N/C.

Bootleg Rose, alt. folk, 7pm, bergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Tom Bergeron & Duo Violão Plus One w/ Rogerio Souza, Edinho Gerber, Ami Molinelli & Rosi Bergeron, choro-samba, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

Jerry Joseph, songwriter, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$15.

Funk Jam, 9pm, Luckey's Club, 933 Olive St. N/C.

#### NIGHTLIFE

Beginners Board Game Night, 5pm today & Thu. May 2, Funagain Games Game Parlor, 2711 Oak St. FREE.

Karaoke For Cash, 6pm today & Thu. May 2, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm today & Thu. May 2, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Trivia Night w/ Brett today & Thu. May 2, 6:30pm, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. FREE.

FWD Trivia, 7pm today & Thu. May 2, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke Sundays, 7:30pm today & Thu. May 2, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

#### OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Ninkasi Run Club, 5:30pm today & Thu. May 2, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

#### SOCIAL DANCE

Downtown Dances, noon-1pm, Kesey Square, Willamette & Broadway E. FREE.

#### SPECTATOR SPORTS

Eugene Emeralds vs. Hillsboro Hops, 7:05pm today & Fri., Apr. 26, 6:05pm Sat., Apr. 27 & Sun., Apr. 28. Tickets at MiLB.com.

#### TEENS

Teens & Sexuality, 10-11am, reg. at OpheliasPlace.net/ Webinar. \$65.

## FRIDAY

### APRIL 26

#### COMEDY

All Ducked Up: Comedy Open Mic, 5pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. FREE

Barbie & Allan Comedy Show, 7pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. \$12-15.

Comedy Shows, 7pm, Sawdust Theatre, 120 No. Adams, Coquille. Tickets at SawdustTheatre.com.

#### FOOD/DRINK

*A Nightmare on Elm Street*, 9pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$8-11.

#### FOOD/DRINK

Oakshire Public House 11th Anniversary Weekend, 11am-10pm thru. Apr. 28, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. FREE.

Whiteaker Walking Food Tour, 1-4pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison Street. \$90.

Queer Folk Dinner Party, 6-9pm, Farmers Kitchen Delights, 819 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. Reg. at FarmersKitchenDelights.com.

#### GATHERINGS

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Meeting, 10-11:30am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd. FREE.

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St. FREE.

#### KIDS/FAMILY

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

Kids: Builders & Makers Club, 3-5pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Kids: Book Talk, 4pm, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

#### LECTURES/CLASSES

Djembe Drumming For Beginners, 3:30-4:45pm, Djembe Trading Post, 1740 W. 10th Ave. \$10.

Climbs Around the World — An Obsidians Potluck & Presentation ft. Morgan Watson of Crux Rock Gym, 6:15-8:45pm, Obsidian Lodge, 2250 E. 29th Ave.

Bring a dish.

#### MUSIC

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Better Than a Bucket, folk-grass, 6:30pm, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. FREE.

Drive to Space, variety-tempo, 7pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Ky Burt & The Feelgoods, rock-country, 7pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. N/C.

Live Music, 7pm, 255 Madison St. \$7.

Brian QTN, Amy Danziger & Sarah Holtschlag, folk-jazz, 7:30pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$15-20.

John Nastos Quartet w/ Greg Goebel, Garrett Baxter & Michael Raynor, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$25.

Daddy Rabbit, '50s rock, 8pm, The Embers, 1811 State Hwy. 99 N. N/C.

The Joe Simbari Trio, blues, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. \$7.

Traveling Wilburys Revue, rock, 8pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$20-35.

Colony Drop & Serpent Rider, metal, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$10-15.

EastSide AllStars, 9pm, Bugsy's Bar & Grill, 559 Ivy St., Junction City. N/C.

Meow Mix, electronic-hip-hop, 9pm, The Cooler Bar, 20 Centennial Lp. N/C.

Molasses & Bunk Doggers, neo-soul-funk, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$10.

#### NIGHTLIFE

FWD Trivia, 7pm, Ninkasi Tasting Rm., 272 Van Buren St. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette. FREE.

#### OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Freeloader Friday, 10am-4pm, Oregon WaterShed, 112 Main St., Spfd. FREE.

#### SOCIAL DANCE

Church of 80s: Dance Party, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$4.

#### SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Baseball: Oregon at Oregon State, 6:05pm today & Sat., Apr. 27, 2:05 Sun., Apr. 28 & 6:05pm

Tue., Apr. 30. More info at GoDucks.com.

#### THEATER

*Bright Star*, 7:30-10pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$19-60.

## SATURDAY

### APRIL 27

#### ART/CRAFT

Figure Art Sessions, 10am-1pm, LCC, Studio 136, Bldg. 5, 4000 E. 30th Ave. \$8.

#### DRAG

Drag Takeover, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$10.

#### FARMERS MARKETS

Ln. County Farmers Market, 9am-3pm, Farmers Market Pavilion & Plaza, 85 E. 8th Ave.

#### FILM

*A Nightmare on Elm Street*, 11am & 9pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$8-11.

Psychedelic Film, Discussion Circle & Library Browsing, noon, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. FREE.

*EOS — John Singer Sergeant: Fashion & Swagger*, 1:15pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10-12.

*Spirited Away* — Studio Ghibli Fest 2024, 3pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave.

#### FOOD/DRINK

Whiteaker Walking Food Tour, 1-4pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. \$90.

#### GATHERINGS

Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30-10:30am, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

TransParent Group, 11am-noon, Theo's Coffee House, 199 W. 8th Ave., #1. FREE.

Ambedkar Jayanti '24, 2-5pm, Westminster House, 1000 E. 13th Ave. FREE.

## calendar



LYNNEA BARRY  
AND MARISA FRANTZ  
PERFORMING

Photo Courtesy of The Shedd

Country music legend Johnny Cash and American folk music group the Carter Family have influenced modern artists with their legacies. **Lynnea Barry: Ring of Fire – The Carter Family** takes the stage April 27 and 28 at The Shedd. “I grew up listening to different styles of music. I listened to the oldies station, if you will,” says Barry, vocalist and artistic director of the show. “I remember listening to the Carter family with my grandparents.” Barry and other local musicians traced the American folk music group’s earliest recordings by A. P., Sara and Maybelle Carter back in 1927 and created a show on the evolution of their music. The artists will take a trip down memory lane remembering the professional and personal relationship between Maybelle’s daughter June and Johnny Cash. Fast forward to this weekend with piano, bass, accordion, guitar, violin, vocals and more taking on the Ring of Fire Program with new mashups and stylistic arrangements. With two sets, the performers will perform songs from 1924 to 1978 including “I’m Thinking Of My Blue Eyes,” by A. P. Carter, “Folsom Prison Blues,” by Johnny Cash and “Ring of Fire,” by June Carter. Johnny Cash’s recording of “Ring of Fire” was written by June. “I’m going to be singing it in honor of June Carter as the original songwriter,” Barry says. From bluegrass to country and Southern gospel with a little rock, this music will take you back in time.

*Lynnea Barry: Ring of Fire – The Carter Family is 7:30 pm April 27 and 4 pm April 28 at The Shedd, 868 High Street. Tickets range from \$11.75 to \$32 at TheShedd.org or the ticket office located at The Shedd. Dinners At Six are reservation only for \$27.75 per dinner and \$19.75 for ages nine and under. – Brianna Murschel*

23d & Monroe, Corvallis. Contact OregonCasteAbolition@gmail.com for more info.

Trans Community Support Group, 3:30-5pm, Email Info@transponder.community for link. FREE.

### HEALTH

Occupy Medical Services, 9-11am, Washington Jefferson Park, Washington St. & W. 5th Ave. FREE.

Parkinson’s Resources Engage Eugene Health & Wellness Fair, 2-4pm, Campbell Community Ctr., 155 High St. FREE.

### KIDS/FAMILY

Healthy Kids Day, 10am-1pm, Eugene Family YMCA Don Stathos Campus, 600 E. 24th Ave. FREE.

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, 11-11:30am &

11:45am-12:15pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

Restorative Wildcrafting, 1-4pm, Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah’s Native Plant Nursery, 34639 Frank Parrish Rd. \$65-385.

### LITERARY ARTS

Three Novels of Education: *Adam Bede*, *Great Expectations* & *If Beale Street Could Talk*, 9:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St. \$95-135.

*The Evangelicals: Loving, Living & Leaving The White Evangelical Church* — Author Book Talk, Meet & Greet, Signing, 3-5pm, Hilyard Community Ctr., 2580 Hilyard St. FREE.

Writers on the Fly, 7pm, Caddis Fly Shop, 168 W. 6th Ave. \$20.

### MARKETS

Eugene Saturday Market, 10am-4pm, Park Blocks, 8th Ave. & Oak St. \$15-50.

### MUSIC

2nd Annual Benefit Concert For Humwe, Zimbabwean music, 5:30pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave. Sug. don. \$10-20, \$5-10 youth, children FREE.

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

The Backpedalers Farewell Show, country ensemble, 6pm, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. N/C.

Bushnell University School of Music & Performing Arts Spring Concert, 7pm, First Baptist Church, 3550 Fox Meadow Rd. N/C.

Caveman Dave, musician, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. N/C.

Shordie Shordie, rapper, 7pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$25-75.

Spring Choral Concerts by Jubilate, 7pm, First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis. \$15-50.



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## calendar

Faculty Artist Recital: Sunmi Chang, violin, 7:30pm, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave. UO Stu. w/ ID Free, GA \$10

Left on Tenth, rock-reggae, 7:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Lynnea Barry: Ring Of Fire: Carter/Cash Tribute, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$11.75-32.

Paula Byrne Quartet w/ Brandon Nelson, Dave Captein & Jason Palmer, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

Any Given Session, rock-soul, 8pm, Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. N/C.

Billy D & The Hoodoos, blues, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. \$10.

Coupe de Ville, rock, 8pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. N/C.

Daddy Rabbit, '50s rock, 8pm, The Embers, 1811 State Hwy. 99 N. N/C.

Marie Siou, soul, 8pm, The Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$20.

Ligature Marks, Hideous Monster, Fluid Spill & The Kieths, metal-punk, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$12.

Washed in Black — Pearl Jam tribute, rock, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$18-20.

### NIGHTLIFE

Sex Ed Trivia Fundraiser for NWAFF, 7pm, 255 Madison St. FREE to play.

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette. FREE.

### OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Birdwatching, 8-11am, Willow Creek Preserve. FREE. Guided Historical Walking Tour: The Whiteaker, noon-1:45pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. FREE.

### SOCIAL DANCE

Dance Empowered w/ Cynthia Valentine, 9-10am, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$12.

Contra Dancing — Beginner Friendly, 7-10:30pm, The Village School, 3411 Willamette. \$8-20.

### THEATER

*Bright Star*, 7:30-10pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$19-60.

## SUNDAY

### APRIL 28

#### ART/CRAFT

ARS Rhododendron Flower Show & Sale, 9am-4pm, 5th St. Market Alley, 296 E. 5th Ave. FREE.

#### COMEDY

Come On In Open Mic, 7:30pm, The Barn Light Bar, 924 Willamette. FREE.

#### FARMERS MARKETS

Spring Plant Sale & Farmer's Market, noon-5pm, Lost Valley Educational Ctr., 81868 Lost Valley Ln., Dexter.

#### FILM

*Spirited Away* — Studio Ghibli Fest 2024, 3pm & 7pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10.50-12.50.

*A Nightmare on Elm Street*, 4:15pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$8-11.

#### GATHERINGS

Corvallis Tweed Ride, 10am-2pm, 2nd St. & Washington Ave, 500 SW 2nd St., Corvallis. FREE.

### calend

Cribbage Afternoon, 2pm, Arable Brewing Co., 510 Conger St. \$5.

#### SOCIAL DANCE

Emerald Valley Ctr. for Spiritual Living, LGBTQ+ friendly, 4pm-5:30pm, Hilyard Community Ctr., 2580 Hilyard St. Don.

Last Sunday at the Abbey for April, 1-4pm, Eugene Masonic Cemetery & Hope Abbey, 25th/26th Ave. & University. FREE.

May Day Celebration 2024, noon-5pm, Park Blocks, 8th Ave. & Oak St. FREE.

Sunday Gathering, 10:30-11:30am, The Center, 390 Vernal St. FREE.

#### KIDS/FAMILY

Family Fun: Building, 1-5pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library, FREE.

#### LECTURES/CLASSES

Nutrition & Lifestyle Medicine Classes, 2-4pm, Eugene Family YMCA Don Stathos Campus, 600 E. 24th Ave. FREE.

#### MUSIC

Carmina Burana & Walpurgis Night — Eugene Concert Choir, 2:30pm, Hult Ctr. \$10-52.

Dances of Court & Country, early English dance music, 3pm, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 3925 Hilyard St. \$5-15.

Jazz at the Ciderhouse — Hosted by Idit Shner, 4pm, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. N/C.

Lynnea Barry: Ring Of Fire: Carter/Cash Tribute, 4pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$11.75-32.

Serenade & Sip, 4pm, Iris Vineyards Wine Bar, 322 Main St., Spfd. N/C.

Spring Choral Concerts by Jubilate, 4:30pm, First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis. \$15-50.

EastSide Sunday Jam, 5pm, Twisted River Saloon, 1444 Main St., Spfd. N/C.

Jerry's Middle Finger, rock-folk, 6pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$22-25.

Whiskey Rogues, Irish music, 6pm, The Pint Pot Pub, 195 E. 17th Ave. N/C.

Deathchant, Ferns & Creep Creep Janga, psych-rock, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$12-16.

Careful Gaze, Greybloom & CallowRuse, metal-emo-punk-screamo, 10pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$5.

#### NIGHTLIFE

RWMcCabe Studios: Open Mic, 4pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Open Mic, 6pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Trivia Mondays, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Quality Trivia, 7pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Karaoke Sundays, 7:30pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

The Muse Collective, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$9.

Annual Corvallis Tweed Ride — Tour de Trees, 10am, Corvallis Odd Fellows Hall, 223 SW 2nd St., Corvallis. FREE.

Yoga + Beer, 10:30am, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. \$25.

Eugene Community Ecstatic Dance & Movement, 11am-1pm, 118 Merry Ln. FREE.

#### SOCIAL DANCE

Coalescence Community Ecstatic Dance, 10am-1:30pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$10-24, ages 12 and under FREE.

Ballroom Dance Lesson & Party, 5:30pm, The Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette. \$2-15.

Sensual Bachata Sundays, 6pm, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. \$5-10.

#### SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Softball: Oregon vs. Northern Colorado, 11am, Jane Sanders Stadium. Tickets at GoDucks.com.

#### SPIRITUAL

Bahá'u'lláh & the New Era, 10-11:30am, Bahá'i Ctr., 1458 Alder St. FREE.

Meditation: Humility, 11am. Reg. at CDMSpiritualCenter.org.

#### THEATER

*Bright Star*, 2-4:30pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$19-60.

## MONDAY

### APRIL 29

#### COMEDY

Comedy Open Mic w/ Seth Milstein, 8pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

#### FILM

*EOS — John Singer Sargent: Fashion & Swagger*, 6pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10-12.

*Spirited Away* — Studio Ghibli Fest 2024, 6:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10.50-12.50.

#### GATHERINGS

UO Public Surplus Sale, 4-6pm today, & Wed., May 1, Romania Bldg., 2020 Franklin Blvd.

#### NIGHTLIFE

Beats & Boards, 6:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. \$3.

Open Mic, 6:30pm, Hounds-tooth Public House, 1795 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Quality Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez, 6:30pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. FREE.

Bingo, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. FREE.

#### SOCIAL DANCE

Dance Empowered w/ Cynthia Valentine, 5:30-6:30pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$12.

#### SPIRITUAL

Mindful Integration & Breathwork w/ PSILO Temple, 7-9pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1300 Pearl St. FREE.

#### TEENS

Study Help, 4-6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

## TUESDAY

### APRIL 30

#### ART/CRAFT

Figure Art Sessions, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave. \$8.

#### CIVICS

4J School Budget Committee Meeting, 6-8pm, 4J School Facilities Department, 715 W. 4th Ave.

#### FILM

*Spirited Away* — Studio Ghibli Fest 2024, 6:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10.50-12.50.

#### LECTURES/CLASSES

Learn About STAR Voting, 11am, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

Talk Time / Hora de conversación en inglés, 4:30-5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 10th Ave. FREE.

People's History of Music in the U.S., 6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Timeless elegance will flood the streets of Corvallis along with camaraderie and exploration. Celebrating its 10th anniversary the *Corvallis Tweed Ride — Tour de Trees* will congregate April 28 at the intersection of 2nd and Washington. It's highly encouraged to dress in vintage attire to pay homage to its history. The first Tweed Run occurred in London in 2009 and was inspired by Jack Thurston's disbanded Tweed Cycling Club, which held vintage-attire-themed rides in England in the '90s. The idea is to shred the modern recreational outfits and dress how they did in the olden days. Bridget Hayes, chief instigator of the Tweed Ride, and her husband brought the event to Corvallis from Atlanta where they participated in numerous rides. Albany and Portland also host Tweed Rides along with other cities around the U.S. This year's theme in Corvallis celebrates Arbor Day with the 12-mile scenic tour noting the historic trees of the town, such as Camperdown elms, London planes and dawn redwoods. "One of them is going to be the tree that the city charter was signed underneath," Hayes says. "One of them is a Hiroshima Peace Tree grown from the seeds of a tree that survived the Hiroshima blast and was planted by a survivor, a Japanese woman who has since moved to Oregon." The group pauses for a picnic, so grab your favorite snacks and lunch items. Bring your favorite tea cup because large thermoses of tea will be available. Whether you're a biker or admirer, wave to your friends as the cyclists slowly take off down the streets following tradition. "It's sort of a combination of slow bicycle movement, performance art and a bit of theatricality," Hayes says. Celebrate the end of the ride at the after-party located at Treebeard's Taphouse at 201 SW 2nd Street, Corvallis. Order a drink on tap whether it's an IPA, Ale or good-ole non-alcoholic root beer.

*The Corvallis Tweed Ride — Tour de Trees is 10 am April 28*

*starting at the intersection of*

*2nd Street and Washington*

*Avenue, Corvallis. FREE. Click*

*on "interested" or "going" on*

*the Corvallis Tweed Ride 2024*

*Facebook Page to register and*

*receive updates. More info on*

*the event, trees, map and more*

*at CorvallisTweedRide.net.*

— Brianna Murschel

Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10.50-12.50.

*The Room* — 20th Anniversary w/ Live Commentary by Greg Sestero, 7pm, Whiteside Theatre, 461 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$20-25.

#### KIDS/FAMILY

Baby Storytime, 10:15am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Toddler Storytime, 11am & 11:45am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Tweens: Nintendo Switch Gaming Party, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Trivia Tuesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

#### LITERARY ARTS

TransPonder Book Club, 5-6pm, Email info@transponder.community for link. FREE.

#### MUSIC

Rose Women's

## calendar

Science Knight Out w/ Dr. Michael Hahn, 6:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. FREE.

### MUSIC

Martin King & 2nd Set Jam Session, jazz, 7pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$10.

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 7pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. N/C.

Sean Peterson Ess-tet, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

The Dead & the Down, Corwin Bolt & the Wingnuts, alt-Americana-nu-folk, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

### NIGHTLIFE

Open Mic, 5pm, Mulligan's Pub, 2841 Willamette. FREE. FWD Trivia, 6pm, Falling Sky Brewpub, 1334 Oak Alley. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. \$5.

Bingo Wednesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke, 7pm, 255 Madison St. FREE.

Trivia, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. FREE.

Karaoke Night, 9pm, Blarally, 245 Blair Blvd. FREE.

### OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Bee Surveys w/ Bee City Eugene, noon-2pm, Rasor Park, 785 Stephens Dr. FREE.

### SOCIAL DANCE

Dance Empowered w/ Cynthia Valentine, 5:30-6:30pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$12.

### TEENS

The Sounds of Resistance, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

## THURSDAY

### MAY 2

### FILM

Macbeth: Ralph Fiennes & Indira Varma, 6:30pm,

Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$16-19.

Cinema Nights, 8:15pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

### FOOD/DRINK

2nd Annual Margaritafest, all day, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

### GATHERINGS

Hearing Voices & Different Realities Discussion & Support Group, 1-2:30pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. FREE.

Public Safety Forum, 6:30-9pm, Madison Middle School, 875 Wilkes Dr.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

Supporting Native Habitat in your Backyard — OSU

Master Gardener Shirley Betournay, 9-11am, Willamette Adult Activity Ctr, 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

Morse Bookmarks: How the Heartland Went Red, 12:30-2pm, Gerlinger Alumni Lounge, UO campus, 1468 University St. FREE.

Angela Hennessy: title TBC, George & Matilda Fowler Lecture, 4pm, UO Lawrence Hall, Rm. 177, 1190 Franklin Blvd. FREE.

### MUSIC

EastSide AllStars, 6pm, Wildfangs Overtime Tavern, 770 S. Bertelsen Rd. N/C.

Rootdown, reggae-alt. rock-hip-hop, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Las Cafeteras, fusion-Afro-Mexican beats, 7:30pm, Hult Ctr. \$25-35.

Zeller, Manis, Wood, Wallmark & Furrow, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$20.

### THEATER

The Wizard of Oz, 7pm, Willamette High School-Powers Auditorium, 1801 Echo Hollow Rd. \$7-10, ages 6 and under FREE.

Heathers the Musical, 7:30pm, The Ragozino Performance Hall, LCC, 4000 E. 30th Ave. FREE.

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\$299 lb

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BBQ Sauces  
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\$699 25 oz  
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# Spraying Words on the Page

GRAFFITI, EUGENE'S ALTERNATIVE ZINE, IS A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING

By Emerson Brady

**I**n *Graffiti* anything goes," says founder and publisher Don Root. Root is right. Similar to the art you'll find spray-painted under an overpass, *Graffiti* is equally unpretentious as it is impressive. The alternative zine has no editor and accepts just about everything — as long as it doesn't break copyright or libel laws.

"We don't do themes, which I like because you never know what you'll get," Root says of zines that are based off of a prompt or idea. "But it's always a little bit of everything."

Flipping through a copy of the zine you'll find anything from a poem about a fat black crow to a woman's reasoning for why she got an abortion. Even the masthead is consistently inconsistent, with last month's issue replacing job titles with celebrities like Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce.

"It's like spraying words on paper more or less, you know?" Root says. "Some of it is really artful and some of it trash. I'll let the reader decide what's good."

Root, a retired writer and editor at publications such as the international travel guide *Lonely Planet* and the now-defunct *Lane Monthly*, started the zine in January 2023 out of what he says was boredom and a desire to help cultivate the arts scene in Eugene.

Since its inception, *Graffiti* has published 13 issues, amassed advertising from Eugene staples in the community such as the Eugene Art House and Caffé Pacori, and has managed to print monthly without breaking the bank.

"We're finally getting to the point where it pays for itself," Root says. He adds that through donors and ad support, the paper can print on a monthly basis. The zine recently incorporated as an Oregon public benefit corporation, but is still working on becoming a 501c3 so donations can be made tax free.

"If we obtain 501c3 status, we could get grant money and pay for the zine a year in advance instead of being issue to issue," Root says. "As long as it pays for itself, though, I'm happy."

*Graffiti* uploads former issues of the zine online as well

Graffiti #1



Graffiti #2



Graffiti #5



Graffiti #13



Graffiti #7



Graffiti #3



Graffiti #9



Graffiti #6



A SELECTION OF GRAFFITI COVERS

as longer pieces that don't fit in print, but Root is adamant about maintaining a mostly print presence. He says of online reading, "I think there's something missing there. To be able to sit down with a paper and leisurely peruse it. Probably better for your eyes, I suppose."

While Root says he finds value in print, he's having a little bit of trouble luring younger audiences and contributors to hop on board. He says that he "broke down" and started an Instagram in March of last year to try and appeal to younger folks.

In the meantime, Root says he's going to continue dropping off the zine at University of Oregon's campus

and look to the "20-something" on staff, Jordan Howell Rose, for ideas to reach the youth in Eugene's arts scene.

*Graffiti*'s most recent issue, *I3*, hit the streets Wednesday, April 24, and can be found all across downtown Eugene and the Whiteaker. "I don't know if *Graffiti* reflects the arts scene in Eugene, but it might be a nice piece in the whole quilt of the arts scene in Eugene," Root says. "Which makes me happy."

For information on where to pick up a copy of *Graffiti* or links to past issues, go to [Graffiti-Magazine.com](http://Graffiti-Magazine.com). You can find *Graffiti* on Instagram at [GraffitiZineEugene\\_](https://www.instagram.com/GraffitiZineEugene_). If you want to submit to *Graffiti*, email your submission at [GraffitiEugene@gmail.com](mailto:GraffitiEugene@gmail.com).

Thank you for your continued support! Contribute at [support.eugeneweekly.com](http://support.eugeneweekly.com)

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# Just the Juicy Bits

STANDUP COMEDIAN  
**SHENG WANG**  
PERFORMS  
IN EUGENE

By Will Kennedy

SHENG WANG WAS A STANDUP  
ON HBO'S *2 DOPE QUEENS*  
AND ALSO WROTE FOR THE  
ABC SHOW, *FRESH OFF THE BOAT*.

**S**heng Wang is not the best with a quick comeback, he says. That might seem like a weird flex for a standup comedian, but if you know Wang's material, it makes sense. His first Netflix special, *Sweet and Juicy*, came out in 2022, and it's filled with Wang's signature, laidback sense of humor — the kinds of observations that are only possible once you slow down or that you might miss while constantly searching for a punchline.

Wang hones his new hour, April 27, at the Hult Center.

In *Sweet and Juicy*, Wang recalls calming his girlfriend's nerves at her first mammogram. She farted during the procedure, Wang says — a reasonable defensive response to putting her breasts into what Wang calls a "titty panini."

He also covers the spiritual and karmic overtones of Costco shopping and how long it should take to park. "Costco teaches you how to let go," Wang says in the bit. "Before I get to the store, I do a quick little meditation-slash-pep rally. I say, 'We're about to go into a hostile environment. You already know there's going to be some injustice.'"

Wang says *Sweet and Juicy* was a hit, and it increased his profile significantly. He tells *Eugene Weekly* his new material is along those same lines. "It's just a lot of personal observations and stories and experiences," Wang says, exploring the little and sometimes mundane parts of life the comic makes hilarious through his unique point of view.

But with *Sweet and Juicy*'s success, Wang says audiences are more familiar with his style of comedy, and as a result, his new stuff is more vulnerable and weird. "Having a bit more of a dedicated fan base like that gives you a little bit more freedom" to go deeper and harder into some topics, he says.

Wang, Taiwanese American, grew up in Houston and started doing comedy while in college at the University of California, Berkeley, in the early 2000s. He got into standup on a lark with no background in the performing arts. A group of Asian American students on campus encouraged other Asian American students to express themselves creatively through performance. Once Wang tried comedy, it was the perfect fit.

Wang is now among a generation of Asian and Asian American comedians, including Ronny Chieng and Ali Wong, carving a place for their perspective on standup stages. Wong, Sheng's longtime friend and comedy colleague, directed *Sweet and Juicy*, and the show opens as Wong brings Wang on stage. She calls him her favorite comedian.

"Being Asian American and being who she is, it's a blessing to have somebody in your life like that," Wang says of Wong. On the current wave of Asian and Asian American comics like Wong, he adds, "To see them achieve and to know that they're your friend, and they look like you, they're like you, and are from immigrant families — I can't say enough."

*Sheng Wang performs two shows, 7 and 9 pm, April 27, in the Soreng Theater at the Hult Center; the 7 pm show is sold out; tickets are still available for the 9 pm performance; \$45, all-ages.*

## FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

**ARIES** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Have you ever gotten your mind, heart and soul in sweet alignment with the spiritual beauty of money? An opportunity to do that is available. During the next four weeks, you can cultivate an almost mystical communion with the archetype of well-earned wealth. What does that mean? Well, you could be the beneficiary of novel insights and hot tips about how best to conduct your finances. You might get intuitions about actions you could take to bring more riches into your life. Be alert for help from unexpected sources. You may notice that the more generous you are, the more the world's generosity will flow your way.

**TAURUS** (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Bordering the Pacific Ocean for a thousand miles, Chile's Atacama Desert is a place of stark and startling beauty. Unfortunately, its pristine landscape is also a dumping ground for vast amounts of discarded clothes that people bought cheaply, wore out quickly, and didn't want anymore. Is there any other place on earth that more poignantly symbolizes the overlap of sacred and profane? In the coming weeks, Taurus, you will possess a special aptitude for succeeding in situations with metaphorical resemblances to the Atacama. You will have an enhanced power to inject ingenious changes wherever messiness is mixed with elegance, wherever blemished beauty requires redemption, and wherever lyrical truths need to be rescued from careless duplicity or pretense.

**GEMINI** (MAY 21-JUNE 20): My Gemini friend Alicia thrives on having a quick, acute, whirling-dervish-like intelligence. It's one of her strong points now, but it wasn't always. She says she used to be hyperactive. She thought of serenity as boring — "like some wan, bland floral tea." But after years of therapy, she is joyous to have discovered "a kind of serenity that's like sweet, frothy hot chocolate spiced with cinnamon and nutmeg." I'm guessing that many of you Geminis have been evolving in a similar direction in recent months — and will climax this excellent period of relaxing growth in the coming weeks.

**CANCER** (JUNE 21-JULY 22): All Cancerians who read this oracle are automatically included on the Primal Prayer Power List. During the next 13 days, my team of 13 Prayer Warriors and I will sing incantations to nurture your vigor, sovereignty and clarity of purpose. We will envision your dormant potentials ripening. We will call on both human and divine allies to guide you in receiving and bestowing the love that gives your life supreme meaning. How should you prepare for this flood of blessings? Start by having a long talk with yourself in which you describe exactly why you deserve these gifts.

**LEO** (JULY 23-AUG. 22): A meme on Instagram said, "The day I stopped worrying about what other people think of me was the day I became free." This sentiment provokes mixed feelings in me. I agree it's liberating not to be obsessed with what people think of us. On the other hand, I believe we should indeed care about how we affect others. We are wise to learn from them about how we can be our best selves. Our "freedom" includes the discernment to know which ideas people have about us are worth paying attention to and which are best forgotten and ignored. In my opinion, Leo, these are important themes for you to ruminate on right now.

**VIRGO** (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): The city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia is a holy place for Islam. Jerusalem is the equivalent for Judaism, and the Vatican is for Catholicism. Other spiritual traditions regard natural areas as numinous and exalting. For instance, the Yoruba people of Nigeria cherish Osun-Osogbo, a sacred grove of trees along the Osun River. I'd love it if there were equivalent sanctuaries for you, Virgo — where you could go to heal and recharge whenever you need to. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to identify power spots like these. If there are no such havens for you, find or create some.

**LIBRA** (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): In my astrological opinion, you are entering a period when you can turn any potential breakdown into a breakthrough. If a spiritual emergency arises, I predict you will use it to rouse wisdom that sparks your emergence from numbness and apathy. Darkness will be your ally because it will be the best place to access hidden strength and untapped resources. And here's the best news of all: Unripe and wounded parts of your psyche will get healing upgrades as you navigate your way through the intriguing mysteries.

**SCORPIO** (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): According to my astrological perspective, you are entering a phase when you could dramatically refine how relationships function in your life. To capitalize on the potential, you must figure out how to have fun while doing the hard work that such an effort will take. Here are three questions to get you started. 1. What can you do to foster a graceful balance between being too self-centered and giving too much of yourself? 2. Are there any stale patterns in your deep psyche that tend to undermine your love life? If so, how could you transform or dissolve them? 3. Given the fact that any close relationship inevitably provokes the dark sides of both allies, how can you cultivate healthy ways to deal with that?

**SAGITTARIUS** (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): I feel sad when I see my friends tangling with mediocre problems. The uninspiring dilemmas aren't very interesting and don't provoke much personal growth. They use up psychic energy that could be better allocated. Thankfully, I don't expect you to suffer this bland fate in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. You will entertain high-quality quandaries. They will call forth the best in you. They will stimulate your creativity and make you smarter and kinder and wiser. Congratulations on working diligently to drum up such rich challenges!

**CAPRICORN** (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): In 1894, a modest *Agave ferox* plant began its life at a botanical garden in Oxford, England. By 1994, a hundred years later, it had grown to be six feet tall but had never bloomed. Then one December day, the greenhouse temperature accidentally climbed above 68 degrees F. During the next two weeks, the plant grew twice as tall. Six months later, it bloomed bright yellow flowers for the first time. I suspect metaphorically comparable events will soon occur for you, Capricorn. They may already be underway.

**AQUARIUS** (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Have you felt a longing to be nurtured? Have you fantasized about asking for support and encouragement and mentoring? If so, wonderful! Your intuition is working well! My astrological analysis suggests you would dramatically benefit from basking in the care and influence of people who can elevate and champion you; who can cherish and exalt you; who can feed and inspire you. My advice is to pursue the blessings of such helpers without inhibition or apology. You need and deserve to be treated like a vibrant treasure.

**PISCES** (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): In his book *Attention Deficit Disorder: A Different Perception*, Thom Hartmann theorizes that distractibility may have been an asset for our ancestors. Having a short attention span meant they were ever alert for possible dangers and opportunities in their environment. If they were out walking at night, being lost in thought could prevent them from tuning into warning signals from the bushes. Likewise, while hunting, they would benefit from being ultra-receptive to fleeting phenomena and ready to make snap decisions. I encourage you to be like a hunter in the coming weeks, Pisces. Not for wild animals, but for wild clues, wild signs and wild help.

*Homework: Is there any important situation where you're not giving your best? Fix that, please. Newsletter: [FreeWillAstrology.com](http://FreeWillAstrology.com).*

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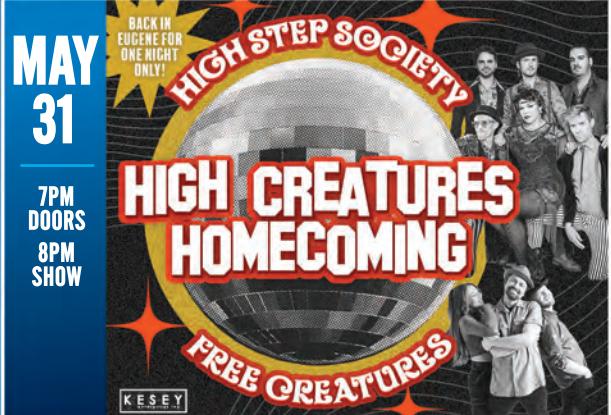
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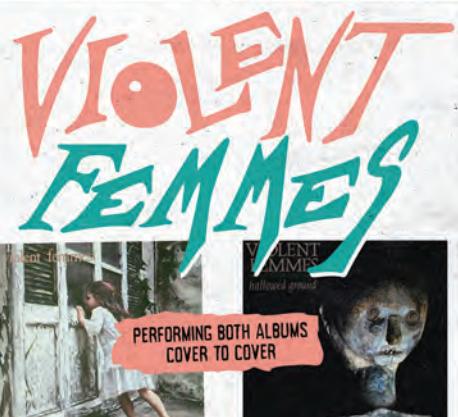
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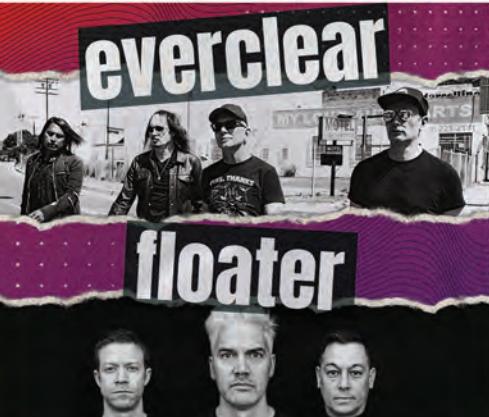
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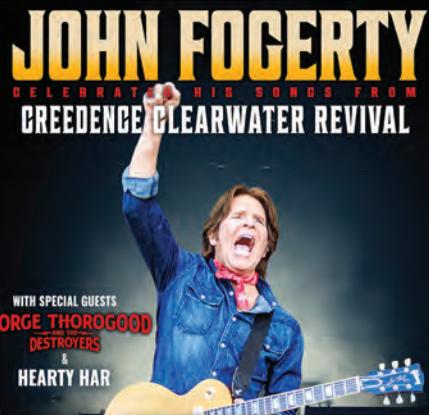
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